



**Victims Assistance and Protection Program for Women
Rescued from Trafficking**

**Submitted to
The United States Agency for International Development
USAID**

November 2003

**Activities for Trainings and a Public Awareness
Campaign in Croatia on the topic of
Trafficking in Human Beings
ICMC Final Report
1 October 2002 - 30 September 2003**

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Reporting Period: 1 October 2002 - 30 September 2003

I. Summary of Project Purpose

In September 2002, USAID awarded ICMC a small grant to implement the program, *The Victims Assistance and Protection Program for Women Rescued from Trafficking (VAPPWRT)*, in partnership with the Rosa Center for Women. The multi-faceted project aimed to coordinate and provide capacity building support to local NGOs and institutions to implement the activities outlined in the National Plan for the Suppression of Trafficking in Persons (National Plan). All activities relied on coordination with key players in on the National Committee for the Suppression of Trafficking in Persons (National Committee). Initial project indicators were met and in some cases exceeded as outlined in the *Progress Towards Objectives* section of this report.

In May 2003, the project transitioned its primary implementing partner from the Rosa Center for Women to the newly formed NGO, Zenska Soba, as the capacity of the staff at Zenska Soba was more in-line with the requirements to fulfill the obligations and to provide the activities outlined in the VAPPWR project.

II. Objectives

- To build the capacity of local NGOs and other governmental institutions in Croatia to successfully implement an Information and Awareness Campaign and to supplement that campaign with a quarterly Newsletter.
- To increase the general knowledge of judges, lawyers and prosecutors as to the general issues surrounding the trafficking of women and children in Croatia and the region, as well as specific issues surrounding Croatian legislative and judicial issues, including Croatia's obligations as a signatory of various international treaties.

III. Summary of Activities

- Seminar in Zagreb
- Varazdin Workshop
- 2 NGO Trainings in Zagreb
- 3 Quarterly Newsletters

IV. Progress Towards Objectives

A. Strategic Objective: 3.4 Mitigation of Adverse Social Conditions and Trends

Intermediate Result: 3.4.3.1 Increased public awareness to reduce stigma and isolation of victim

Activity: Capacity Building for the Legal and Judicial System

Section two of the National Plan outlines activities for the "creation of an adequate legislative platform for revealing, instituting proceedings and for sanctioning of perpetrators of this [trafficking of persons] crime". While new counter-trafficking legislation was being drafted, debated and finally ratified, the VAPPWR project aimed to build the local capacity of key legislative and judicial actors so as to prepare such institutions to recognize the victims and perpetrators of human trafficking as well as understand and implement the new legislation.

ICMC and the Rosa Center, and later Zenska Soba, coordinated with the American Bar Association's Central and Eastern European Legal Initiative (ABA/CEELI), the Croatian Ministry of

Justice, Administration and Local Self-Government, the Croatian Bar Association, the Center for the Education of Judges and other Judicial Officials, the National Committee and the U.S. Department of Justice in Croatia to implement activities to build local legislative and judicial capacity.

Outcomes:

The first event was a seminar for Croatian judges, lawyers and states attorney's held on 23 January 2003. Partners coordinated closely to develop a format, procure, speakers and invite local and regional participants. The actors involved included an impressive list of presenters and panelist from Croatia and the region familiar with and experienced in trafficking issues. In addition, the Croatian Minister of Justice and the American and Canadian Ambassadors gave opening statements and pledges of support to Croatia.

The coordinating agencies requested that the Ministry of Justice send out the invitations to the seminar to the County Court Presidents and the State Attorney in each county. Each of these offices, in turn identified individuals in their county who would most likely benefit from the seminar to attend and request their attendance.

In addition, all relevant international governmental and non-governmental agencies were invited including the UNHCR, OSCE, IOM, the National Center for State Courts (NCS), the World Bank, various embassies, the International Center for Migration and Policy Development (ICMPD) in Vienna and local and international journalists.

In total 120-130 people attended the one-day seminar.

Outcomes specific to the first seminar:

1. Several themes emerged from panel presentations as well as the question and answer sessions.
 - One theme that developed was the issue of should Croatia wait for the new Anti-Trafficking law to be passed before it begins to take action. The answer from all panelists, was *no, the framework for protection and prosecution already exists through the Palermo agreement and the UN Protocol, of which Croatia is signatory to both.*
 - Another theme that developed was that women rescued from this situation in Croatia and the region are still being treated as criminals although the current laws in Croatia and elsewhere allow for them to be treated as victims.
 - Finally, from the Q & A, the question as to what extent official corruption makes trafficking in humans possible was considered. If local officials did not cooperate with traffickers, but instead became their enemies, the situation would immediately improve in terms of reduction of victims, victim protection and prosecution of traffickers. Therefore, anti-corruption efforts must be strongly linked to anti-trafficking efforts.
2. Regional links were established as participants and presenters attended from all regions of Croatia, the Balkan region and Western Europe, including key officials from Table III of the Stability Pact. For example, the two members from the International Center for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) in Vienna who attended were able to make valuable contacts. ICMPD has been sub-contracted to provide technical assistance to the European Commission/AIDCO in the implementation of the project: *Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Situation Reports* (of which Croatia is a member state). ICMPD was tasked by the European Commission/AIDCO with establishing and compiling, by end January 2003, a detailed and current overview of all on-going and planned assistance projects in the field of Justice and Home Affairs.

Judges, prosecutors and lawyers from all regions in Croatia had the opportunity to make contact with their counter parts in Italy, Bosnia, Macedonia and Romania as well as a host of international governmental and non-governmental organizations working in counter-trafficking legislation, protection and prosecution.

3. Follow-up interviews with participants indicated a high degree of satisfaction with the first seminar in terms of general information about trafficking in persons as well as the situation in Croatia. Interestingly, most interviews revealed that participants had some idea that a law was being drafted but had no idea what it contained and all found it useful to see the draft. In addition, all interviewed participants indicated the need for small, focused, regional trainings with specifics on the new law as a follow-up to the seminar.

The second seminar for Croatian judges and prosecutors was held in Varazdin on 29-30 May 2003. ICMC and the NGO Zenska Soba coordinated closely with ABA/CEELI, the Croatian Ministry of Justice, through the Center for the Education of Judges and other Judicial Officials, and the State Attorney's office. Initially, this training was to be the one-day regional training outlined in the USAID contract with ICMC. However, in consideration of the contract between the Croatian Ministry of Justice and the ICMPD/Stability Pact to hold a series of trainings with specific parameters including a standardized curriculum, the partners agreed to lengthen the training to two days and use the curriculum and the trainers appointed for the ICMPD trainings. All of the ICMPD trainers, including a state attorney from Split, a judge from Zagreb and a member of the State Attorney's office in Zagreb and the NGO representative from the National Committee actively participated in the two-day training. The State Attorney's Office and the Judicial Education Center sent invitations and participation was excellent, including 13 judges and 12 state's attorneys from the region representing 10 communities.

The organizing partners lobbied to include the Varazdin training in the required ICMPD trainings and invited an ICMPD monitor. Unfortunately, the training did not meet the 3-day requirement and therefore was deemed an ICMPD pilot.

As previously mentioned, the content and agenda followed the ICMPD requirements for curriculum. After the initial topics were presented, participants were asked to share past experiences with and knowledge of trafficking issues in Croatia. Through this exercise, many realized that previous cases involving illegal border crossings, human smuggling and international prostitution cases might have, in fact, been cases of trafficked women. A few participants spoke of previous Roma cases where families (husbands) had potentially trafficked their wives and/or daughters.

Outcomes specific to second workshop:

1. Awareness Raising
 - Participants increased their awareness of the issues of trafficking, the country and regional situation as well as the impending Croatian law on trafficking in persons and how to apply it. All participants also received campaign material including the first and second *Trafficking in Persons* newsletter.
 - The general public increased their awareness of the issues of trafficking in the local Varazdin area as well as Zagreb, as the media coverage was significant and included "Varazdinska TV", "HTV", "Vecernji list", the weekly "Varazdinske vijesti", "Jutarnji list" and the radio stations, Radio "Sjeverozapad" from Varazdin and Croatian Radio. As well, Media Scan included the following article:

Croatia – the Endpoint of Trafficking in Humans

Friday JUTARNJI LIST

p. 8

- ☐ At a seminar on trafficking in humans that started in Varazdin on Thursday, Croatia was said to be changing from a country serving as a transit point for trafficking into one of the final destinations of the 'slaves of the 21st century'. The seminar is organized by the Croatian office of **ABA/CEELI** (Central and East European Law Initiative of the American bar Association), the Ministry of Justice, Office of the State Attorney and the International Catholic Migration Commission (**ICMC**).

The victims of trafficking are predominantly women and children. They are denied personal freedom and forced into prostitution. Head of the ABA/CEELI office Steven Austermiller stressed that the problem is expected to increase as the countries neighboring Croatia join the EU.

1. Several discussions emerged from the presentation topics and the question and answer sessions.
 - One topic discussed was the impending law on trafficking in persons and its practical application, which requires consideration of the definition of a trafficked person, conditions under the law for prosecution and penalties for traffickers. Participants were aware of the draft law and were given the opportunity to discuss all of the above issues surrounding it with one of its drafters.
 - Another discussion centered on the question, *Does trafficking exist in Croatia?* Several judges/prosecutors shared their direct experiences or cases that involved women trafficked or potentially trafficked, however at the time many did not have either the knowledge or the tools to properly define and protect the victims, and/or prosecute the perpetrators.
 - One broader topic included Croatia's international obligations as signatory to various treaties and protocols.
2. Local links were established between participants, who shared ideas and experiences. As well, participants established contacts with presenters from throughout Croatia, which will serve to provide mentors for local judges and prosecutors as well as local participants more directly with the Stability Pact and the ICMPD and to understand Croatia's obligations in the context of the international community.
3. Post-training questionnaires indicated a greater understanding of general issues surrounding the phenomena of trafficking in persons as well as country and regional situations. The questionnaires and discussions also indicated that participants in Varazdin generally had a *lower* general knowledge of the definition and issues surrounding trafficking in persons, pre-training, than participants at the seminar in Zagreb.

Performance Indicators:

Indicator: Improved understanding by NGOs, judges, lawyers and prosecutors of the issues surrounding the trafficking of human beings

Unit of Measure: 20% increase of understanding in both the NGO target group and the judges/prosecutors/lawyers target group of CT understanding based on questionnaire

This indicator was achieved through the two NGO trainings, the seminar for Judges and the workshop for judges. Data sources used in this indicator are pre and post questionnaires and interviews. Questionnaires were used for participants at the workshop and trainings, while interviews as a data source were used only after the judicial seminar.

Through the questionnaire filled out by the NGO-participants prior to the training, they displayed a basic knowledge of the phenomena of trafficking of human beings. The analysis of the post-training questionnaire showed that the knowledge about trafficking phenomena had increased. The parameters used in the questionnaire, for the participants to evaluate the increase of their knowledge about the issue, ranged from 1 to 5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest). The average score before the training was 3.0, which increased to a 4.0 after the training. This allows us to conclude that the overall knowledge of the NGO participants was elevated from 60% to 80% for an overall increase of 20%.

See section, C., topic, Activity: NGO training for implementation of and Awareness and Information campaign to counter-trafficking in Croatia *below for NGO training details*. The questionnaire taken by the judges and prosecutors was designed to measure the same parameters as the one taken by the NGOs. The analysis of the questionnaire shows that while they had limited knowledge prior to the trainings, their knowledge increased profoundly during these trainings. The questionnaire had the same parameter scale from 1 to 5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest). The average score of the increase in knowledge was from 3.0 to 4.21, concluding that their knowledge was enhanced from 60% of the questionnaire to understanding 84.2% for a total increase of 24.2%.

The second measure used to show the increase in knowledge after the judicial trainings was interviews with randomly selected participants. In all, eight interviews were conducted. The interviews illustrated similar increases in knowledge as the questionnaire. Examples of participant comments included, *Most of this information I have heard for the first time at this seminar.?* *Yes, I knew a little, but now it is much more clear to me.?* *Helga Conrad's presentation was an 'eye-opener'.?* *Yes I knew some of this but I did not have this much detail.?*

See Attachment 1 and 2: Example Interviews with Judge Antonija Kovacic and Zvonko Ivic, Head of the Municipal State Attorney office in Knin.

Notes on Baselines/Targets: In consideration of the above-mentioned questionnaire and interviews, the activities exceeded the initially estimated results of a 20% increase in understanding by both the NGO target group and the judges/prosecutors/lawyers target group.

B. **Strategic Objective:** 3.4 Mitigation of Adverse Social Conditions and Trends

Intermediate Result: 3.4.3.1 Increased public awareness to reduce stigma and isolation of victim

Activity: Trafficking in Human Beings Newsletters

To increase awareness in the general public as well as the key actors involved in counter-trafficking efforts in Croatia, ICMC produced a quarterly newsletter, professionally printed in both Croatian and English. The newsletter, *Trafficking in Humans*, was distributed quarterly to local and international NGOs, journalists, relevant Ministries and other institutions and served several functions. First, it disseminated information to all relevant agencies and institutions by providing general counter-trafficking information, the findings of the National Actions Committee, reported statistics, highlighted best practices and other activities, gave voice to and contact information for NGOs and other institutions working to counter trafficking activities in Croatia and the region. The newsletter also served to make public the activities of the government and the National Action Committee in their efforts to implement the National Plan.

The ICMC Counter-Trafficking Coordinator with the input of the National Action Team, the ICMC/IOM Clearing House, the US Embassy in Croatia, the Stability Pact, relevant Croatian institutions as well as a host of regional sources developed, edited, printed and distributed three such newsletters. The newsletter also served to create and maintain relevant regional links to other counter/trafficking activities.

Outcomes:

The first *Trafficking in Humans* newsletter was distributed in February 2003 to over 160 relevant international and local NGOs, international organizations and governmental institutions including Croatian Ministries and offices, and foreign embassies by post and over 200 judges, lawyers and states attorney's at seminars and workshops.

The second *Trafficking in Humans* newsletter included input from the National Committee, IOM, the NGO Network PETRA, the Croatian Helsinki Committee, UNICEF and the Chair of the Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings for South Eastern Europe. This newsletter was printed and distributed in May 2003 to approximately 200 recipients by post and at seminars.

The third *Trafficking in Humans* newsletter included input from the National Committee, the American Embassy and ABA/CEELI. Distribution occurred in mid-September due to the number of recipients on holiday in July and August. Approximately 150 recipients received the third newsletter.

All efforts will be made to find funding to continue the newsletter after the conclusion of the VPPWRT grant. First priority is to transition the newsletter to a local NGO, so as to preserve the intention of the newsletter as not only an awareness raising and information dissemination vehicle

but also as a governmental “watch-dog” for initiatives and implementation of the National Plan activities.

Performance Indicators:

Indicator: Improved understanding of representatives of relevant anti-trafficking actors in Croatia.

Unit of Measure: 10% increase in understanding of the issues and the state of affairs of the counter-trafficking community in Croatia before and after the distribution of the first and final newsletter.

The same questionnaire used to evaluate the NGO trainings was used to evaluate the impact of the newsletter. The results of fifteen questionnaires were analyzed before and after the distribution of the newsletters. The results were similar to those found before and after the trainings in that knowledge prior to reading any newsletter was basic or very limited and increased after having read the final issue. The questionnaire had a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest). The average score on the pre-questionnaire was 2.1, while scores on the post-questionnaire averaged 4.0.

According to the data analysis, the increase in understanding of the issues surrounding counter-trafficking efforts in Croatia covered by the newsletter is from 42% pre-newsletter to 80% post for a total increase of 38%. Based on these results as well as informal feedback, the project strongly recommends that the publication of the newsletter continue as a tool to keep the wider counter-trafficking audience informed about the ongoing C-T activities in Croatia.

C. Strategic Objective: 3.4 Mitigation of Adverse Social Conditions and Trends

Intermediate Result: 3.4.3.2 Increased public response to contain and reduce vulnerability

Activity: NGO training for implementation of Awareness and Information campaign to counter-trafficking in Croatia

Section Four of the National Plan outlines a strategy for prevention of trafficking in persons. Of the three aims of the section, two focus on the increasing public awareness through dissemination of information. To support these objectives, ICMC and the Rosa Center for Women provided a series of workshops to the PETRA network, a network of local NGOs located throughout Croatia engaged in prevention, protection or assistance activities on a small scale or have an interest in such activities. ICMC and the Rosa Center laid the foundation for training activities in June 2002 by hosting a two-day National Conference, which served to give NGOs an opportunity to document their interests as well as open dialogue with the National Action Committee. Also present at the conference was Dr. Helga Konrad, Chair of the Stability Pact Task Force Against Trafficking in Human Beings, thus establishing direct links between local NGOs and the Stability Pact. Dr. Konrad emphasized the important role that local NGOs play in developing and implementing National Action Plans and pledged her support to the work of the National Action Team.

The conference resulted in an active list of local NGOs with the interest and potential capacity to implement the activities of the National Action Plan. Through the VAPPWRT project, this network received training and guidance in the form of workshops and individualized technical assistance to execute local outreach awareness and education campaigns. This network is sustainable beyond the life of the VAPPWRT project, as it will have the knowledge, experience, local and regional contacts and resources to sustain the campaigns.

To implement the workshops, ICMC and the Rosa Center coordinated with La Strada Czech Republic (La Strada), a highly respected NGO experienced in executing counter-trafficking campaigns, SOS Information and Helplines as well as working with relevant governmental institutions. La Strada first developed a questionnaire to gauge public awareness of the issues

surrounding human trafficking in the region and in Croatia. The questionnaire also addressed the capacities of the local NGOs in Croatia: the length of their existence, their target groups, cooperation with other organizations, methods of work, and experience with the issue in a given environment. This questionnaire was sent to participants one month in advance of the workshop. La Strada collected and analyzed the questionnaires and from this information and designed a draft of the training. With input from ICMC and the Rosa Center, the training agenda was finalized in December.

The first workshop was held on 20-22 January 2003 in Zagreb. All 13 NGO members of the local NGO network PETRA participated and all regions of Croatia were represented. Members of the National Action Team, IOs and INGOs were invited to attend as participants or observers. In all, 22 participants from all regions of Croatia including representatives from Split, Hvar, Pakrac, Osijek, Zagreb, Karlovac and Vukovar attended.

La Strada provided two trainers, experienced in successful counter-trafficking campaign implementation and knowledgeable of other regional campaigns to facilitate the workshops. The first workshop recognized current NGO institutional and individual knowledge, while building the general knowledge of the issue of trafficking in women and children in Croatia and regionally. The workshop also focused on approaches to prevention, prevention tools, methods, identification of target groups, lobbying and working with the public, campaign structuring, identification of regional problems, identification of target groups, setting a goal and strategies for the campaign, mechanisms for support of campaigns, identification of actors for possible cooperation, role of media, ways of reaching the target groups, framework and expectations, implementation and accountability and examples of information campaigns.

Upon completion of the first training, participants had the capacity to identify their targeted audience, identify possible methods and strategies, identify actors for cooperation, tools for implementation and the final day was spent developing a draft strategic plan for implementation of an outreach and awareness campaign.

The second training was held 15-17 April 2003 with 19 participants, representing 12 of the 13 NGOs in the PETRA network. Again, La Strada facilitated the workshop with input and logistical support from ICMC and the Rosa Center. The workshop agenda included three components: a half-day SOS Awareness and Helpline training, implementation of strategic plan for information campaign, evaluation and monitoring methods for campaigns and a half-day workshop with the IREX Pro-Media program.

The SOS Awareness and Helpline topic included valuable information on maintaining an SOS line, information on appropriate procedures and responses to specific situations, referral contacts, follow-up of calls and international standards. The methodology focused on role-playing and small group exercises based on actual cases of La Strada's hotline, established in 1997.

The second component of the training included implementation of strategic plans from the first NGO training and evaluation and monitoring techniques for local campaigns. At the conclusion of the second workshop, PETRA members had the capacity and the materials to implement and monitor a counter-trafficking information and awareness raising campaign throughout Croatia according to their individual and network strategic plans. To further support several NGO members, the VAPPWRT project provided individualized technical assistance to four members of the network determined to have the greatest needs in terms of training, experience or resources. The additional technical assistance and support provided to these NGOs is outlined below.

Finally, the NGOs participated in the IREX Pro-Media series, *Culture of Dialogue*. Criminal and investigative reporters from all regions of Croatia were invited to share information, work through issues and exchange contact information with members of the PETRA network.

Outcomes:

First Training:

- Established a network of committed NGOs with the intent to work together and individually to implement a counter-trafficking information and awareness raising campaign throughout Croatia.
- Drafted and agreed upon a strategic plan with specific NGO activities, resources and materials.
- Completed a needs assessment in the strategic plan with specific follow-up responsibilities for NGOs and INGOs.
- Determined the four NGOs with the greatest needs in terms of resources and experience and began process of providing technical assistance and small honorariums to each.

Second Training:

- Increased participant knowledge of SOS Information and Helpline including standard practices and practical applications.
- Received materials for awareness and information campaign.
- Increased knowledge of evaluation and monitoring techniques for local campaigns.
- Established contacts with the media in their local area and throughout Croatia and began an honest dialogue about media coverage and issues surrounding the trafficking of persons as well as NGO counter-trafficking efforts and activities.
- Increased capacity and resources of four NGOs in the PETRA network to initiate their counter-trafficking information and awareness campaigns.

Support of the NGOs in the PETRA network

The assistance provided to the four local NGOs, all members of PETRA network, was a good example of how focused assistance based on specific needs can be very effective. The ICMC trainer's primary observation was that most of the NGO members have a wealth of knowledge and have participated in number of learning events (trainings, seminars, lectures, etc.), however, when it comes to actually transferring that knowledge into delivering a presentation and/or workshop themselves, the initial enthusiasm fades due to the challenges of implementation. A variety of activities were implemented to provide support to the PETRA network based on their individual and network strategic plans as well as a *needs assessment*. Support includes the following:

1. **Campaign material** - ICMC made multiple distributions of campaign material to the PETRA network members including posters, postcards, stickers and calendars to assist in implementing their local campaigns.

2. **Technical Assistance** -

At the initial NGO training in January, the PETRA network chose four of its members with the greatest training and resource needs to receive technical assistance in planning and executing their campaign implementation plans. ICMC then arranged for an experienced trainer from ICMC's International Training Unit to provide each of the four NGOs with one day of preparation training, based on their individual needs (material development, preparing trainings for schools, etc.), and one day of either co-teaching or observation and feedback.

All four NGOs, "Delfin" Pakrac, Zenska Grupa Split, "SOS - poziv u pomoc" Virovitica and Udruga Zena Vukovar, were very receptive to plan and submitted proposals to ICMC with campaign activities that included either workshops in primary and secondary schools or presentations on local radio programs, material and training needs and proposed activity dates.

The ICMC trainer worked with each of the four NGOs to focus and identify their activities and most urgent needs. It was determined that all four required technical assistance in

implementing their activities in primary and secondary schools, on preparing radio spots and interviews and in general awareness raising workshops/seminars in their local communities and the surrounding areas. The ICMC trainer then conducted further, more detailed needs assessments in April with each NGO individually.

The ICMC Trainer prepared a basic outline of each of the workshops and then adjusted the schedule to meet the specific needs of each organization. In general, each workshop covered the following topics:

- Introduction of the participants, the trainer and the workshop, review of the agenda
- Identification and presentation of the existing ideas for the workshop/radio show
- Goals and Objectives: how and why
- Defining the goals of CT campaign workshop
- Design of the workshop: defining specific content, method and implementation steps, allocating time
- Materials for the workshop: selection and design of material
- Putting it all together
- Next steps: planning on what needs to be done in order to finalize all the elements of the workshop/radio show (materials, contacts, teams for implementation, final preparations, etc.)

The ICMC trainer provided technical assistance to each NGO in May 2003 and observed at least one activity implemented by each organization, e.g. a school workshop or a radio show in May and June 2003 with a formal evaluation.

3. Outcome of technical assistance

- NGOs have increased capacity that is directly applicable to implement counter-trafficking awareness and information campaigns according to their strategic plans.
- NGOs have increased resources to implement counter-trafficking awareness and information campaigns.

Performance Indicator:

Indicator: NGOs initiate different anti-trafficking activities

Each NGO in the PETRA network developed a strategic plan for executing a counter-trafficking awareness and information campaign as outlined in this section.

Unit of Measure: Each NGO participant will execute an awareness and information campaign.

Baseline data: 2002=no, 2003=yes

Name: Antonija Kovacic 091 5762213
Title: Misdemeanour Court Judge (Visoki prekršajni sud)
Municipality/County:

English: No

General Knowledge and Awareness Raising:

1. Were you aware of the phenomena of human trafficking before the seminar? In the region? In Croatia?
Yes, I knew basic information related to legal matters. As such, I saw that glimpses of trafficking were involved in certain cases – such as the cases I saw as illegal border crossing
2. If so, from what sources (newspapers, TV, magazines, NGOs, etc)?
As I mentioned above from my practice and also TV, newspapers etc.
3. Did the seminar raise your level of knowledge of the general issues surrounding the trafficking of human beings? How?
Definitely, and the interdisciplinary approach was very useful. It was extremely important to have international experts and people from the authority. We have finally defined the problem and with this tool, can find ways to fight it.
4. Did the seminar raise your level of knowledge of the actors involved in the fight to counter the trafficking of human beings (National Action Team, judges, NGOs)?
Yes.
5. Were you aware before the seminar that Croatia has a National Action Team whose chairperson is Željka Antunovic?
Yes, I knew that National Action Plan was in preparation process.
6. Were you aware before the seminar that Croatia has a new draft penal code specifically focusing on human trafficking?
Yes, but I did not have so much detail.

Relevance:

7. Do you feel that the information from the presenters was relevant to the situation in Croatia?
Definitely, especially since we all believed that Croatia was only a country of transit and now we are aware that Croatia might be as well the final destination.
8. Do you think that this new law will have an impact in your municipality/county?
Of course, but my believe is that all spheres of the society must be brought to the higher level of knowledge through the education.
9. Do you feel that the new law and the contact made at the seminar have given you some basic tools to protect a victim of trafficking and/or prosecute a trafficker?
Yes – but it's only a start. What we need now is to follow this problem in an adequate way, since it is a long-term problem and we'll need long-term solutions. We will definitely need to cooperate with all possible actors to reduce this problem.
10. Had you ever seen or heard of a case in a Croatian court of either the prosecution of a trafficker or a victim?
Yes. Two days ago I saw on the TV that some traffickers were persecuted in Cakovec (Medimurje County).

Follow-up:

11. Did you share information gained at the seminar with your colleagues? (If so, in what way?)
Yes, I told to my colleagues and coworkers about the workshop. They still do not understand the whole issue, but it usually takes time to digest such informations.

12. Would you attend a smaller, more focused regional seminar on the implications and application of the new law?

Of course, I would love to.

Comments:

13. Other comments?

My only suggestion is to start workshop at 9 a.m. and to finish at 5 p.m.

Otherwise, presenters were great – very good choice of presenters, work material was well prepared and I have no objections at all.

14. How would you rate the workshop on a 1 to 5 scale, 1 representing “useless”, 5 representing “extremely useful”?

5

Name: Zvonko Ivic

022 660 268

English: No

Title: Municipal State Attorney Head of office in Knin (Opcinski državni odvjetnik u Kninu)

Municipality/County:

General Knowledge and Awareness Raising:

1. Were you aware of the phenomena of human trafficking before the seminar? In the region? In Croatia?

Yes – both in region and Croatia.

2. If so, from what sources (newspapers, TV, magazines, NGOs, etc)?

First of all from my cases – one case of trafficking and dozens of illegal border crossings.

3. Did the seminar raise your level of knowledge of the general issues surrounding the trafficking of human beings? How?

Of course. I liked the idea that major attention was given to the women – who are the primary victims of trafficking. They are important witnesses, but before even being processed they are being deported because of illegal cross border. They are not treated in a human manner and that's something to pay attention in the future.

4. Did the seminar raise your level of knowledge of the actors involved in the fight to counter the trafficking of human beings (National Action Team, judges, NGOs)?

Yes. It is important that this cooperation goes on. Many times, people write laws and decisions but it is never implemented. Hopefully, this will not be case like that.

5. Were you aware before the seminar that Croatia has a National Action Team whose chairperson is Željka Antunovic?

Yes, but not in detail.

6. Were you aware before the seminar that Croatia has a new draft penal code specifically focusing on human trafficking?

Yes, a little but now it is much more clear to me.

Relevance:

7. Do you feel that the information from the presenters was relevant to the situation in Croatia?

Yes, I believe it is realistic – not minimized and not blown up.

8. Do you think that this new law will have an impact in your municipality/county?

Of course, otherwise it would be waste of time. I believe that GoC is determined to fight this problem, as this is a serious crime.

9. Do you feel that the new law and the contact made at the seminar have given you some basic tools to protect a victim of trafficking and/or prosecute a trafficker?

Yes, it is obvious that will exist but only will is not enough.

10. Had you ever seen or heard of a case in a Croatian court of either the prosecution of a trafficker or a victim?

Yes. Since I work in Knin, which is close to the border I had many cases of illegal cross border. Once I had a victim as a witness – she was Croatian citizen who applied for a job as babysitter abroad (it was and add in the newspaper that four persons put on) and she was sexually abused.

Follow-up:

11. Did you share information gained at the seminar with your colleagues? (If so, in what way?)

Of course I did. I brought materials and explained to my colleagues what was going on at the seminar. That was main reason of my participation – as we couldn't all attend.

12. Would you attend a smaller, more focused regional seminar on the implications and application of the new law?

Yes.

Comments:

13. Other comments?

It would be extremely useful to continue with such seminars. Sharing informations with other colleagues in Croatia and region would help to implement the law in same way in the whole region.

14. How would you rate the workshop on a 1 to 5 scale, 1 representing “useless”, 5 representing “extremely useful”?

5